Whitchurch, Hants.

Rural District Council

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1914.

Rural District of Whitchurch, Hants.

Area 30,609 acres: Population 6121 (Census 1911).

ANNUAL REPORT

For the year ended Dec. 31, 1914.

To the Whitchurch (Hants) Rural District Council.

GENTLEMEN,—

I beg to submit my **ANNUAL REPORT** for the year 1914. Copies of this report have been forwarded to the Local Government Board, Home Office and County Council.

The District consists of Whitchurch, Overton, and St. Mary Bourne, with various adjoining parishes.

The subsoil is chalk, with some light loam and gravel.

The population is chiefly occupied with Agriculture, also in a Paper Mill, a Jam Factory, and a Silk Mill.

Area, 30,609 acres. Population, 6121 (1911 Census).

REGISTERED BIRTHS.

Whitchurch Division	71
Overton ,, ...	43
St. Mary Bourne ,, ...	25
Total	139

DEATHS.

Whitchurch Division	42
Overton ,, ...	24
St. Mary Bourne ,, ...	6
Total	72

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

Whitchurch Division	2
Overton ,, ...	6
St. Mary Bourne ,, ...	1
Total	9

DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS WITHIN THE DISTRICT.

Whitchurch Workhouse Infirmary ..	6
Whitchurch Isolation Hospital	0
Total	6

DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS BEYOND THE DISTRICT 7.

5 belong to Whitchurch
1 to Overton
1 to St. Mary Bourne.

Comparing with the previous year, we have—

REGISTERED BIRTHS.

	1913.	1914.
Whitchurch Division	72	71
Overton ,, ...	37	43
St. Mary Bourne ,, ...	25	25
Total	134	139

DEATHS.

	1913.	1914.
Whitchurch Division	19	42
Overton ,, ...	12	24
St. Mary Bourne ,, ...	7	6
Total	38	72

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR.

	1913.	1914.
Whitchurch Division	2	2
Overton ,, ...	0	6
St. Mary Bourne ,, ...	1	1
Total	3	9

DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS WITHIN THE DISTRICT.

1913.	1914.
7	6

DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS BEYOND THE DISTRICT.

1913.	1914.
9	7

NET DEATH RATE FOR THE WHOLE DISTRICT.

	1913.	1914.
General (Nett)	7.6	13.2
Infants (Nett)	22.3	64.2

BIRTH RATE (NETT) PER 1000 OF POPULATION.

1913.	1914.
21.8	22.8

There were 3 illegitimate Births in the District during the year, 2 in Whitchurch and 1 in St. Mary Bourne, and no death of an illegitimate infant.

The Death Rate in 1914 was the highest since 1908. This was to a great extent due to the very large number of old people who died during the year, 29 were 70 or over, 16 were 80 or over, and 4 were over 90 years of age. The last 9 death certificates received in 1914 gave an average of over 80 years of age.

The Notification of Diseases Act shows the following results for the year :—

WHITCHURCH DIVISION.

Diphtheria	10
Erysipelas	9
Scarlet Fever	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	7
Total	27

OVERTON DIVISION.

Diphtheria	6
Erysipelas	2
Scarlet Fever	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	1
Total	11

ST MARY BOURNE DIVISION.

Puerperal Fever	1
Total	1

DEATHS FROM NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES WITHIN THE DISTRICT.

Diphtheria	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	3
Total	4

The following is a Return of New Cases of Sickness attended by the Medical Officer of each district of the Union during the year :—

Whitchurch	174
Overton	121
St. Mary Bourne	48
	343

INFLUENZA was prevalent in the Spring and again at the end of December, but there were no fatal cases.

DIPHTHERIA.—Towards the end of February, 1914, three cases were notified in Whitchurch, two of the cases—one a child and one an adult—being admitted to the Isolation Hospital. The third case—a child—was treated at home and died. In March three more cases from the house where the case had

died were notified, and removed to the Isolation Hospital. One other case a child, was notified in March from Whitchurch, being a brother of the case first notified in February. No further case occurred till the end of July, when a child at Whitchurch was found to be suffering from it. This was a mild case, and the patient was able to be isolated at home. Anti toxic Serum was administered to those who had been in contact, and no further cases were found. The house and surroundings were above reproach, and no cause could be found.

On August 7 an adult, who had been away from Whitchurch, returned home, and was found to have diphtheria. This was treated at the Isolation Hospital.

The last case in Whitchurch was on October 19, when a mild case occurred, and was treated at home.

In the Autumn some cases occurred at Overton, the first on September 7. This was treated at home. On October 8 another case was notified. I visited Overton the same day, saw the Doctor, in attendance, and advised removal to the Isolation Hospital, as the surroundings were not good. This case was living close to the house where the previous case occurred, and the same woman had been looking after both cases. Another woman and her two children had been staying in the house, but the children had been removed the previous day.

At the Medical Attendant's request, I visited and injected serum to these three contacts, and their throats were swabbed, and the mother found to have diphtheria. She was taken to the Isolation Hospital.

The house was at once disinfected, and no more cases occurred there.

On October 18 another case was notified from Overton, and the patient was removed to the Isolation Hospital on October 19. This case lived two miles from the others and had no connection with them.

A cesspool had been emptied and the contents distributed over the garden some weeks before, and sore throats had been prevalent with some occupants of this and the adjoining house for some weeks previously. The house and surroundings were in excellent order. On November 13 a child at Quidhampton was notified as having diphtheria. I visited the house the same day and conferred with the Doctor attending the case. The child was removed to the Isolation Hospital the same day. Here there was no definite connection with the other cases, and no cause found.

The last case from Overton occurred on November 27, and the child removed to the Hospital.

Nearly all these cases of Diphtheria in 1914 (16 in number) were of a mild type, and it is particularly these mild cases that are liable to be overlooked and so spread infection.

SCARLET FEVER.—Two cases were notified, one at Whitchurch in June. This was removed to the Isolation Hospital, and one at Overton at the end of December. This latter was an imported case, and was treated at home.

ENTERIC FEVER (TYPHOID).—No case was notified during the year.

ERYSIPELAS.—Eleven cases were notified—2 from Overton and 9 from Whitchurch. There is nothing special to record in any of these cases.

DIARRHOEA AND ENTERITIS.—One fatal case was reported but these diseases were not prevalent during the year.

CANCER.—Six deaths occurred, one in the Workhouse Infirmary.

PUERPERAL FEVER.—One case was notified from St. Mary Bourne; the patient unfortunately died.

MEASLES.—There was an outbreak at Overton in February, and partly on this account the Schools there were closed.—Measles were prevalent in April and May in Whitchurch.

CHICKEN-POX.—A few cases occurred during the year.

WHOOPING COUGH.—A severe epidemic occurred at Overton in the spring and six deaths resulted from it. There was an epidemic at Laverstoke in June and July, and at Whitchurch in July and August.

MUMPS.—A few cases occurred.

PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.—Eight cases were notified as against sixteeen in 1913. One was a soldier who was staying here a few weeks—an imported case. Three—two males and one female—were under 20 years and one was a patient of 70 years old, who died of another disease shortly afterwards. One was a women aged 39, who lived in a small house with her husband and a large family under conditions that would most certainly spread the disease. The Landlord arranged that a larger, better house should be provided. Of these eight cases four were able to get sanatorium treatment and one, for whom arrangements had been made, eventually refused to go. After the removal of any of these cases the rooms are always disinfected or in case of death.

A stock of Sputum Pots is provided by the Council and supplied to patients when required.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.—This has been used a great part of the year and without it I am convinced there would have been two big epidemics of Diphtheria, one at Whitchurch at the begining of the year and one at Overton in the latter part of the year.

Thirteen cases of Diphtheria and one of Scarlet Fever were admitted during the year. Accommodation is provided for twelve cases, and is sufficient for the needs of the district. Some repairs are very much needed to the roof of the verandah, through which in wet weather the rain comes in in many places.

HOUSE REFUSE AND RUBBISH.—This is removed by the Scavenger twice a week at Whitchurch and once a week at Overton. Sanitary dustbins with proper covers should be used instead of boxes and pails.

The present arrangement for collecting refuse is most unsatisfactory. The cart used is a shallow one from which paper and dust blow about the roads after collection. What is urgently needed is a covered sanitary cart with a low axle.

PIGGERIES NEAR DWELLINGS.—Little trouble has been caused by these this year.

THE SLAUGHTERHOUSES in Whitchurch and Overton have been inspected, cleansed and whitewashed. One in Whitchurch was found to be in a very bad condition, and was remedied after your Inspector had written to the tenant.

THE DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS, of which 33 are registered, have been inspected under the Model Regulations of the Local Government Board, adopted in January, 1905, and in most cases found fairly satisfactory, although in some cases limewashing had not been done, or else done badly. The yards might be kept in a cleaner state. A case was reported to your Council that whilst visiting cowsheds with the Inspector the M.O.H. saw a milker with extremely dirty hands dip his right hand in the pail of milk before commencing to milk. He said he always did this. Unless action is taken by your Council in such a glaring case as this the Model Regulations that you have adopted become more or less a dead letter.

THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS, of which there are 6 in the District, appear to be in a good sanitary condition and are provided with a separate water supply. Medical inspection of school children is carried out periodically under the County Medical Officer. The following Schools were closed on my recommendation :—

Overton Boys School—February 16 to March 9, measles and whooping cough.

Overton Girls School—February 16 to March 9, measles and whooping cough.

Overton Infants School—Feb. 16 to March 9, measles and whooping cough.

Laverstoke School—June 22 to August 3—Whooping cough.

Whitchurch Infants School—July 27 to July 31—Whooping cough.

THE BAKEHOUSES, of which there are 10 in your District, have been inspected and found fairly satisfactory, and lime-washing has been regularly performed. There is no underground bakehouse in the District.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS have been inspected and all found satisfactory.

Towards the end of the year a circular was received, asking that special inspection should be made at the Jam Factory, as some of the product was being supplied to the troops. With your Inspector I visited the Factory and found there was no cause for complaint.

During the year this Factory was visited, especially during the fruit season, and everything found satisfactory.

DISINFECTION OF PREMISES, BEDDING AND CLOTHING where infectious disease has occurred, has been carried out by your Sanitary Inspector, either by the Ligner apparatus or by vaporisation of Formaldehyde Gas by the Calogen Fumigators.

DRAINAGE.—No regular system of Sewerage exists, but in some parts of Whitchurch and Overton drains and gutters have been laid for the conveyance of surface water usually to the river Test.

A good deal of nuisance was caused by some of the inhabitants of Bell Street, Whitchurch, emptying their slops into the street, and as the surface channel runs almost the whole length of the street without any gratings this gave rise to many complaints.

WATER SUPPLY.—By Wells and Tube Pumps, more particularly the latter in the case of new houses.

Four Tube Pumps are provided for public use in Whitchurch, and four in Overton.

The quality of the water is generally good and the supply sufficient.

Many samples of water have been examined as required, and certificates for the supply of new houses granted.

DISPOSAL OF EXCREMENT is mainly on the pail system. A few cemented vaults and old pits still remain ; usually the pails are emptied twice a week in the Whitchurch and Overton localities, but the pails are not cleaned, neither is earth nor ashes used.

DUST.—Various complaints have been made to me about the nuisance arising from the clouds of dust in Whitchurch. The present watering whilst slightly improving matters is quite inadequate to cope with a condition that is from a public health standpoint very deleterious to health. During the past few years the amount of traffic has considerably increased and its character has altered, and the clouds of dust arising therefrom force people whose homes are situated anywhere near the road to shut their windows, thereby depriving houses of necessary ventilation. This is prejudicial to health, as is also the dust which settles on meat and other food exposed for sale. Unless a real effort is made to deal with this nuisance no good will result. What is needed is to remove the dust that is often lying an inch or more thick in some places and this should be done at least three times a week.

THE COUNTY LABORATORY.—Many specimens of material from Diphtheria and Tuberculosis cases were sent from the District, and reports issued.

FOOD AND DRUG ACT.—All food inspected has been found to be fit for human consumption.

The following samples of food were taken by the County Inspector for analysis, and found to be genuine :—

Arrowroot	1	Bread	3	Butter	6
Cocoa	1	Flour	1	Jam	1
Lard	1	New Milk	4	Pepper	2
Tea	1				

HOUSING AND NEW HOUSES.—In 1914, 28 new houses were built.

A long standing case of overcrowding in Whitchurch was eventually remedied and the house closed. For some of the houses built of recent years a rent is demanded which the tenant cannot afford unless he takes in lodgers, thereby to a great extent nullifying for his own family the advantages of a larger house.

HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING ACT, 1909.—Inspections under this Act have been carried out by your Sanitary Inspector under my supervision, 195 houses being inspected.

Under Section 17 two dwelling houses were found unfit for human habitation.

Under Section 15, defects were reported in 67 cases, and 65 of these were remedied by the action of your Inspector.

On Table V. is a Summary of the work done by the Inspector of Nuisances, who has been most courteous and helpful.

BILLETING.—It having been decided that nearly 1200 men of the 7th (Service) Battalion of the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment should be billeted in Whitchurch, I consulted on Dec. 1 with the Medical Officer attached to the troops, and arranged with the Inspector of Nuisances as to various sanitary matters in connection therewith. On Dec. 3 the troops arrived, and were billeted, and up to the end of the year no case of infectious illness was notified to me.

It was arranged that the Scavenger should empty the pails every night instead of three times a week, and this arrangement has been quite satisfactory. With the Inspector of Nuisances I visited the billets and condemned a few cases for overcrowding, and where cleanliness had not been observed, but in most cases the people had done their best to make the troops happy and comfortable, and had succeeded. Some of the bedrooms for the men were as good as the accommodation given to the officers.

A copy of the Weekly Summary of Infectious Diseases has been given each week to the Medical Officer in charge of troops in this District.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

F. A. COATES,

Medical Officer of Health.

TABLE I.—Vital Statistics of whole District during 1914 and Previous Years.

WHITCHURCH (HANTS) RURAL DISTRICT.

Year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births.			Total Deaths Registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths.		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.			
		Uncorrected Number.	Nett.						Under 1 Year of Age		At all Ages.	
			Number.	Rate.	Number.	Rate.	of Non-residents registered in the District.	of Residents not registered in the District.	Number.	Rate per 1000 Nett Births	Number.	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1909	5822	139	139	23·8	65	11·1	...	3	10	71·9	68	11·6
1910	5822	147	147	25·2	53	9·1	...	11	8	54·4	64	10·9
1911	6121	136	136	22·2	64	10·4	2	8	11	80·8	70	11·4
1912	6121	131	134	21·8	65	10·6	...	6	8	59·7	71	11·5
1913	6121	134	134	21·8	38	6·2	...	9	3	22·3	47	7·6
1914	6121	139	140	22·8	72	11·7	...	7	9	64·2	81	13·2

Area of District in Acres (exclusive of area covered by water) 30,609. Total population at all ages (at Census of 1911) 6121.
Number of inhabited houses 1468. Average number of persons per house 4·1.

TABLE II.—Cases of Infectious Disease Notified during the Year 1914.

WHITCHURCH (HANTS) RURAL DISTRICT.

Notifiable Disease.	Number of Cases Notified.								Total Cases Notified in each Locality.			Total Cases removed to Hospital.
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.										
		Under 1.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 45.	45 and under 65.	65 and upwards	Whitchurch.	Overton.	St. Mary Bourne.	
Diphtheria (Including Membranous Croup)	16	...	1	7	2	6	...	...	10	6	...	12
Erysipelas ...	11	...	1	1	1	5	1	2	9	2	...	...
Scarlet Fever...	2	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	1	...	1
Puerperal Fever	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	8	...	...	..	3	4	...	1	...	...	...	...
Other forms of Tuberculosis	4	1	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals ...	30	1	4	9	8	16	1	3	20	9	1	13

Isolation Hospital—Whitchurch (Hants), provided by Rural District Council. Total available Beds, 12.
Number of Diseases that can be concurrently treated, 2.

TABLE III.—Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1914.

WHITCHURCH (HANTS) RURAL DISTRICT.

Causes of Death.	Nett Deaths at the subjoined Ages of "Residents" whether occurring within or without the District.									Total Deaths whether of "Residents" or "Non-residents" in Institutions in the District.
1	All ages. 2	Under 1 year. 3	1 and under 2. 4	2 and under 5. 5	5 and under 15. 6	15 and under 25. 7	25 and under 45. 8	45 and under 65. 9	65 and upwards. 10	11
All Causes—Certified	78	9	6	2	1	4	8	3	39	...
Uncertified ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Diphtheria and Croup	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	3	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	...
Other Tuberculous Diseases ...	2	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cancer, malignant disease ...	8	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	5	1
Organic Heart Disease... ...	11	...	...	...	..	...	4	...	7	3
Bronchitis	12	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	...
Pneumonia (all forms)	7	2	3	...	...	...	...	...	2	...
Diarrhœa and Enteritis ...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Appendicitis and Typhlitis ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Puerperal Fever	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Congenital Debility & Malformation, including Premature Birth	4	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Violent deaths, excluding suicide	2	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other defined diseases	25	...	2	...	...	2	2	1	18	2
Totals	72	9	6	2	1	4	11	3	43	6

TABLE IV.—Infant Mortality during the Year 1914.

Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under One Year of Age.

WHITCHURCH (HANTS) RURAL DISTRICT.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 week.	1—2 Weeks.	2—3 Weeks.	3—4 Weeks.	Total under 4 weeks.	1—3 Months.	3—6 Months.	6—9 Months.	9—12 Months.	Total Deaths under One Year.
ALL CAUSES—										
Certified	1	...	2	1	4	...	2	1	1	8
Uncertified	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Whooping-Cough ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	2
Abdominal Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Convulsions	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Suffocation, overlying ...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	1
Premature Birth ...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus	1	...	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	2
	2	...	2	1	5	...	2	1	1	9

Births in the Year: Legitimate, 136; Illegitimate 3.

Deaths in the Year:—Legitimate, 9; Illegitimate, 0.

TABLE V.—Summary of Sanitary Work done in the Inspector of Nuisances Department during the Year 1914.

WHITCHURCH (HANTS) RURAL DISTRICT.

		Number of		Abatement Notices.		Nuisances Abated after Notices by		Nuisance Remaining Unabated.
		Inspections and Observations made.	Defects found.	Informal by Inspector.	Formal by Authority.	Inspector.	Authority.	
Dwelling-houses and Schools	Foul Conditions ...	30	10	10	...	10	...	...
	Structural Defects ...	4	1	1	...	1	...	...
	Over-crowding ...	12	3	3	1	2	1	...
	Unfit for Habitation...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Lodging-houses		...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dairies and Milkshops		4	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cowsheds		96	8	8	...	8	...	...
Bakehouses		36	2	2	...	2	...	...
Slaughter-houses		24	1	1	...	1	...	...
Canal Boats		...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ashpits and Privies		9	3	3	...	3	...	...
Deposits of Refuse and Manure ...		12	6	6	...	6	...	...
Water-closets		...	...	...	...	...	...	...
House Drainage	Defective Traps ...	40	10	10	...	10	...	...
	No Disconnection ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Other Faults... ...	40	10	10	...	10	...	...
Water Supply		16	4	4	...	4	...	...
Pigsties		16	4	4	...	4	...	...
Animals improperly kept		...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Offensive Trades		...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Smoke Nuisances		...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Nuisances		14	7	7	...	7	...	...
Totals		353	69	69	1	68	1	...

Complaints received, 2. Houses disinfected after infectious disease, 23 Schools ditto, 1.

TABLE 5—continued.

HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING ACT.

INSPECTION OF HOUSES.

Is there any scarcity of houses and where?—
Cottages needed in Whitchurch and Overton.

Number of new houses built in 1914—28.

General character—Good.

Any Town Planning Scheme contemplated?—No.

Who has been designated as the Inspecting Officer under Article II. of the Housing Regulations, 1910?—
J. S. Knight, Inspector of Nuisances.

Are records submitted to L.A. at each meeting?—
When necessary.

Houses inspected	195
Section 17—	
Dwelling-houses found unfit for human habitation ...	2
Representations made	2
Closing Order made	—
Houses made habitable without closing orders ...	—
Houses made habitable as result of closing orders ...	—
Houses demolished	—
Houses unfit but still occupied	1
Section 15—	
Defects reported	67
Defects remedied	65
Notices served	—

RURAL DISTRICT OF WHITCHURCH (HANTS).

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1914 on the Administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, in connection with Factories, Workshops, Workplaces and Homework.

1.—INSPECTION.		2.—DEFECTS FOUND.
Factories (including Factory Laundries) ...	6	Nuisances under the Public Health Acts—*Nil.*
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	15	Offences under the Factory & Workshop Acts—*Nil.*
Total	21	

3.—HOME WORK. *Nil.*

4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS. Workshops on the Register at the end of the year, 9.

5.—OTHER MATTERS.—Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories:—*Nil.*